

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0603**

March 5, 2019

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

As you know, for decades the Federal Communications Commission and Congress have been examining local television Designated Market Areas and the “orphan counties” that exist within them. These orphan counties are assigned to a television market in one state and their residents live in another state. Coloradans in two orphan counties, La Plata and Montezuma, have long been trying to access their in-state news, weather, and sports.

Following the passage of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act Reauthorization (STELAR) in 2014, La Plata County’s October 2016 request for a local market modification was granted by the Chief of the Media Bureau in March 2017. After the local market modification was granted, several Albuquerque broadcast stations filed an Application for Review of the decision. After nearly two years, the decision on the Application for Review is still pending.

I urge the FCC to expedite the decision on the Albuquerque broadcast stations’ Application for Review. La Plata County has worked for years to bring local television to southwest Colorado, and the uncertainty surrounding the Application for Review is detrimental to all impacted parties.

Attached is a letter from La Plata County outlining its desire for the Commission to act in a timely manner. I look forward to reviewing the Commission’s decision. Please do not hesitate to contact my office should you have any questions on this issue.

Sincerely,



Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress